

Parks & Recreation Board Meeting Minutes

The Parks and Recreation Board of the City of Mesa met in a regular session at the Parks and Recreation office at 200 S. Center Street, Building 1, Mesa, on June 11, 2008.

Members Present:

Frank Alger
Brian Etheridge
Russ Gillard
Don Goodrum
Connie Gullatt-Whiteman
David Martinez
Walter "Bud" Page, Jr.
Marilyn Wilson

Staff Present:

Dawn Bies
J.D. Dockstader
Mike Holste
Bob Huhn
Andrea Moore
Kelly Rafferty
Rochelle Rotert
Sherry Woodley

Members Absent:

Michelle Udall, unexcused
Mark Yarbrough, excused

The meeting was called to order at 3:34 p.m. by Connie Gullatt-Whiteman, Chair.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Gullatt-Whiteman turned the floor over to Russ Gillard, Chair of the Parks & Facilities Subcommittee, for approval of the Parks & Facilities Subcommittee minutes from March 13, 2008. The minutes were not previously approved due to a lack of quorum from that subcommittee. Mr. Gillard asked for a motion for approval; Frank Alger made a motion, Bud Page seconded and it was unanimously carried to approve the minutes as written.

Ms. Gullatt-Whiteman asked if there was a motion for approval of the minutes from the May 2, 2008 Parks Board meeting. Mr. Page made a motion, Don Goodrum seconded, and it was unanimously carried to approve the minutes as written.

Public Comments

None.

Election of 2008-09 Parks Board Chair/Vice-Chair

Mr. Page nominated current Parks Board Chair, Ms. Gullatt-Whiteman, for another term as Chair; Mr. Alger seconded the nomination. Ms. Gullatt-Whiteman asked for any other nominations; none were presented. The Board approved the re-election of Ms. Gullatt-Whiteman as Parks Board Chair for 2008-09.

Mr. Page nominated current Parks Board Vice-Chair, Mr. Gillard, for another term as Vice-Chair; Mr. Alger seconded the nomination. No other nominations were presented. The Board approved the re-election of Mr. Gillard as Parks Board Vice-Chair for 2008-09.

Discussion on revising the PRCF Department Master Plan

Andrea Moore led the continuation of the discussion on revising the PRCF Master Plan. She started with a discussion of suggestions submitted by members of the West Main Street Area Plan Committee and Mesa Grande Community Alliance for park amenities to be included in the Parks Master Plan for west Mesa. The Parks Board decided that all their suggestions should be included in the Master Plan. The second area discussed was northeast Mesa. The following list of revisions were agreed to by the Board for the northeast section, with the understanding that these items may be changed again after the entire city is reviewed and prior to making final revisions to the PRCF Master Plan:

- Proposed neighborhood park target (red circle) by Thomas Road and Hawes was eliminated, with a recommendation to sell the City-owned 10-acre parcel.
- Delete proposed neighborhood park (red circle) east of the Loop 202 Freeway from Brown to McDowell due to proximity of Red Mountain Park.
- Keep the 56-acre community park target (yellow circle) near Zaharis Elementary and keep the 56-acre McKellips and Ellsworth parcel to meet this target.
- Move the neighborhood park target (red circle) between McKellips and University and Ellsworth and Signal Butte to the east to encompass the area east to Meridian and keep the 5-acre Mountain and Adobe parcel to meet this target.
- Delete metro park target (green circle) due to proximity of Red Mountain Park. (Metro parks usually include a sports complex.)
- Keep the golf target (pink circle) due to closing of Riverview Golf Course and the availability of land within Red Mountain Park.
- Delete the pool target (blue circle).

Ms. Moore reminded the Board that the freeway through Red Mountain Park has included pedestrian underpasses for future multi-use paths.

- Keep tennis target (burgundy circle) as few tennis facilities exist in Mesa area. Ms. Moore also reminded the Board that tennis courts could be added to future and existing park land.

For the southeast portion of Mesa, the following revisions were agreed upon by the Board, with the understanding that these items may be changed again after the entire City is reviewed and prior to making final revisions to the PRCF Master Plan:

- Delete pool target (blue circle) bordered by Recker to Ellsworth and Guadalupe to Main; keep the northern pool target (blue circle) east of Loop 202 Freeway with the intention of building a pool at Skyline High School; move the southern pool target further south around the Proving Grounds area.
- Delete small tennis target (burgundy circle) south of the Superstition Freeway between Sossaman and Ellsworth. Keep the large tennis target in the area of the Proving Grounds.
- Keep the recreation center target (orange circle) by the former GM Proving Grounds and delete the other two recreation center targets in the southeast section.
- Keep the neighborhood park target (red circle) west of the Santan Freeway for the Medina and Hawes 8.7-acre parcel, and delete neighborhood park target (red circle) east of the Santan Freeway due to the number of HOA parks in the area north of Guadalupe between Crismon and Meridian.
- Keep the neighborhood park target (red circle) near the former GM Proving Grounds.
- Delete the regional park (light green circle) in the southeast section of Mesa.

- Keep metro park target (green circle) south of Baseline and east of Ellsworth for a future soccer complex at Crismon and Elliot (22 acres).
- Move metro park target (green circle) further south by the ASU Polytechnic campus and Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport for possible future ball field complex.
- Move one community park target (yellow circle) south to the Proving Grounds area and delete the other community park target (yellow circle).

Ms. Gullatt-Whiteman asked if pocket parks should be added to undeveloped southeast Mesa areas. David Martinez added that most new developments would have HOA's, which usually include park areas as part of the development.

Ms. Moore will bring revised plans to the next Parks Board meeting. She asked if there were any more changes the Board would like included in the revised plans. Ms. Gullatt-Whiteman asked about Beverly Park. Ms. Moore reminded the Board that they had previously recommended discussing a possible sale of that land, while the Mesa Grande residents were interested in developing it as park land. Mr. Gillard thanked Ms. Moore for her work on the Master Plan maps and revisions.

Chair Comments

- Departing Parks Board Member - Ms. Gullatt-Whiteman announced that this would be the last meeting for Mr. Page as a member of the Parks Board. She commented that Mr. Page had served the Board with dignity and enthusiasm and always provided a voice of encouragement for Board members and City staff alike. Mr. Page told the Board that he has spent 34 years on various Mesa boards and committees, the past several on the Parks Board. He further stated that he has been elected to serve in the second position with the Mesa HoHoKam Foundation for a four-year term. He told the Board that he will be submitting \$50,000 worth of recommendations to the HoHoKams, encouraging contributions go toward the Making Waves and urban fishing programs, and updating equipment at some of Mesa's pools and parks. Mr. Page said he has enjoyed working with City staff and thanked everyone for their help during his years of service on the Parks Board.

Director's Comments

In the absence of the Parks, Recreation & Commercial Facilities (PRCF) Director, Rhett Evans, J.D. Dockstader, PRCF Assistant Director, gave the director's comments.

- Calendar of Events (update on past/present events) – Mr. Dockstader reported on the following events:

City Council gave the Pioneer Park Train Committee an additional six months to put together a business plan as a result of the Committee's success in raising \$15,000, the initial goal set by Council, towards funding renovations for the train. Council will not require the Committee to collect a specific amount of donations during this time period. Mike Holste added that the Committee meets every Tuesday at 6:00 p.m., at the Mesa City Plaza building, Purchasing Office.

The Washington Activity Center (WAC) funding had been on the list of budget cuts; however, Council committed to keeping it open until September 30th. They hope to extend it until June 20, 2009 through the use of a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). In order to fund the WAC through the summer, Mr. Holste said that two after-school program sites would not be funded next fiscal year. The two program sites have not yet been determined, but the remaining 18 after-school programs will be evenly

distributed geographically. Marilyn Wilson suggested the cut sites should be near the WAC since it will remain open.

Arizona State University will be hosting the Paralympic Games June 12-15, and Mesa's Parks & Recreation Adaptive participants have been given the opportunity to compete in this event.

The next Fit City event will be held from 8 a.m. to 12 noon on June 28, at Poston Pool. Another Fit City event will be held at Dobson Ranch Golf Course driving range on July 14, at 5:30 p.m.

A ribbon cutting ceremony will be held July 15 from 5 to 8 p.m., for the opening of the Loop 202 Freeway. Fit City participants will have an opportunity to run on the freeway before cars are allowed on this section.

The Arizona Parks and Recreation (APRA) annual conference will be August 25-29th at the Camelback Inn in Scottsdale. Board and Commissions Day is set for August 27th. Mr. Holste said that he would register Board Members if interested in attending this year's conference.

Reports on meetings and/or events attended by Board Members

Marilyn Wilson attended the May Fit City event on May 31st at the Red Mountain Multigenerational Center (RMMC).

Mr. Gillard stated that he attended the farewell party for the outgoing City Council members and was able to meet some of the newly elected Council members. He also reported that the Foundation for Mesa Parks & Recreation has decided to forego live meetings for the summer, instead opting for meeting either via conference calls or through their website.

Mr. Alger reminded the Board that the VFW will be hosting an Army birthday celebration on June 14; the Downtown Mesa Association will be hosting A Night Out in Downtown Mesa with an ice cream social on Friday, June 13th.

Ms. Gullatt-Whiteman asked if there were any other items for discussion; the Board had no additional comments. Mr. Alger made a motion to adjourn, Mr. Gillard seconded, and it was unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

J. Rhett Evans
Parks, Recreation and Commercial Facilities Department Director